

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 02842 111930Z

65-60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 DHA-02 ORM-02 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SCA-01 H-02 SCS-03 /051 W

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R 111845Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1014

INFO INS MIAMI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2842

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: SREF, HA

SUBJECT: HAITIAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTS CONSULAR ACCESS TO
HAITIAN REFUGEES IN MIAMI

1. FOREIGN MINISTER EDNER BRUTUS HAS ASKED MY ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING THE REQUEST OF HAITIAN HONORARY CONSUL AT CORAL GABLES, AMERICAN CITIZEN ALEX NEUBERGER, TO INTERVIEW MEMBERS OF A BOATLOAD OF WOULD-BE REFUGEES FROM HAITI RECENTLY APPREHENDED BY U.S. AUTHORITIES IN FLORIDA. BRUTUS UNDERSTANDS THAT A NUMBER HAVE CLAIMED POLITICAL ASYLUM. INS HAS REPORTEDLY REFUSED NEUBURGER'S REQUEST.

2. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THIS REQUEST AMOUNTS TO A SIGNIFICANT OFFER ON PART OF GOH TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN MEETING USG CONCERNS ABOUT DEPORTATION OF WOULD-BE HAITIAN ASYLEES IN U.S. A PRE-SCREENING OF DEPORTEES BY GOH CONSULAR OFFICIALS, INCLUDING HONORARY CONSULS, WOULD ENABLE USG TO PUT GOH ON RECORD AS ACCEPTING THOSE SPECIFIC DEPORTEES WITHOUT REPRISALS. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THIS OFFER, WHICH DEMONSTRATES GOH WILLINGNESS TO REGULARIZE THE PROCESSING OF RETURNING HAITIAN DEPORTEES IN MANNER THAT MEETS NEEDS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS. MOREOVER, SHOULD ANY DEPORTEE IN FACT BE CONSIDERED A THREAT TO HAITIAN SECURITY, IT WOULD PERMIT GOH TO SO INFORM USG PRIVATELY BEFORE PROPOSED DEPORTATION OCCURS.

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3. ACTION REQUESTED: CONSISTENT WITH INS PROCEDURES, THE
GOH REQUEST SEEMS REASONABLE AND I HOPE DEPARTMENT AND INS
CAN WORK OUT ARRANGEMENT THAT WILL MEET GOH NEEDS. WE HAVE
RECENTLY BEEN PRESSING GOH FOR ASSURANCES ON CONSULAR ACCESS
TO U.S. CITIZENS DETAINED BY HAITIAN AUTHORITIES, AND OUR
POSITION WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE STRONGER TO EXTENT WE ARE RESPONSIVE
IN EQUIVALENT CASES. IF FOR SOME OVERRIDING REASON WE CANNOT
ACCEDE TO GOH REQUEST, WE WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE THEM WITH COGENT
RATIONALE. OTHERWISE, HAITIANS WILL BE DISCOURAGED FROM COOPERATION,
AND WILL IN TURN BE DISINCLINED TO COOPERATE ON CASES OF
ACUTE INTEREST TO US IN LIGHT OF RECENT CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM
OF HANDLING OF AMCITS ARRESTED BY FOREIGN AUTHORITIES.
ISHAM

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